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January 8, 2001

**Ms. Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, D.C. 20530**

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I'm a Microsoft shareholder and, quite frankly, I want nothing more than for Bill Gates to be able to make as much money as possible for his shareholders. That is his job. In addition, I don't believe the judicial system or the federal government should be penalizing him or his company for being smarter than anyone else.

Needless to say, I am more than pleased that a settlement is in the works. From what I have been able to glean from news reports, all parties have worked very hard to come up with this agreement. I know, for example, that other software companies will be able to access various Windows features. I hope that part of the agreement, as well as others will end this litigation. Let's get out of the courtroom and back to our desks!

Sincerely,



Irene Thomaidis Cimino